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PTO FACSIMILE NUMBER: (703) 872-9306

PLEASE DELIVER THIS FACSIMILE TO: Christopher R. Harmon
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Type of paper transmitted: Applicant Initiated InterviewRequest Form and Exhibit AApplicant's Name: Kubalek et al.Serial No. (Control No.): 10/674,907 Examiner: HarmonFiling Date: September 30, 2003 Art Unit: 3721Application Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MAKING PADS

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Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form

Application No.: 10/674,907 First Named Applicant: Richard W. Kubalek
 Examiner: Christopher R. Harmon Art Unit: 3721 Status of Application: Final Rejection Mailed
November 12, 2004

Tentative Participants:

(1) Examiner Harmon (2) Richard L. Bridge (Reg. No. 40,529)

Proposed Date of Interview: TBD Proposed Time: TBD

Type of Interview Requested:

(1) ☒ Telephonic (2) ☐ Personal (3) ☐ Video Conference

Exhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: ☐ YES ☒ NO

If yes, provide brief description: _____

Issues To Be Discussed

Issues (Rej., Obj., etc.)	Claims/ Fig. #s	Prior Art	Discussed	Agreed	Not Agreed
(1) Rejection	1, 11	U.S. 6,527,902 Rajala U.S. 3,784,187 Takayanagi et al.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Brief Description of Arguments to be Presented:

Applicants previously presented arguments setting forth reasons why claims 1 and 11 are patentable over the references of record, and in particular Rajala in view of Takayanagi et al. (Amendment A filed September 22, 2004). Nevertheless, the rejection of claims 1 and 11 as being obvious in view of Rajala and Takayanagi et al. has been maintained in the final Office action.

In Amendment A, Applicants presented various arguments in favor of the patentability of the pending claims over Rajala and Takayanagi et al. One of the presented arguments was that Rajala fails to show or suggest a vacuum transfer cylinder having a diameter greater than the distance between the first cutting roll and the sealing roll as recited in claims 1 and 11. Assuming for the sake of argument that the second speed-matching roll 150 of Rajala can be characterized as a sealing roll as maintained in the final Office action (and applicants disagree with such a characterization), it is clearly shown in the attached copy of Fig. 4 (Exhibit A) of Rajala that the first speed-matching roll 125 is located between the die cut roll 304 and the second speed-matching roll 150. The plane defined by the rotation axes of the roll 304 and the roll 150 is illustrated in Exhibit A as line P. Thus, the diameter D of the first speed-matching roll 125 has to be less than the distance X between die cut roll 304 and the second speed-matching roll 150. Accordingly, Rajala also does not teach or suggest a vacuum transfer cylinder having a diameter greater than the distance between the first cutting roll and the sealing roll as recited in claims 1 and 11.

Takayanagi et al. also fails to teach or suggest this feature, i.e., a vacuum transfer cylinder having a diameter greater than the distance between the first cutting roll and the sealing roll as recited in claims 1 and 11. The second serrated cutter 10, which has been characterized by the Examiner as a vacuum cylinder, is supported by pressure-fluid cylinder 14. The cylinder 14 is operable to move the second serrated cutter 10 into engagement with the folding cylinder 5 when the apparatus is used to fold 8-page sections and out of engagement when the apparatus is used to fold 16-page sections since it is not needed. Takayanagi et al. fail altogether to disclose a first cutting roll spaced from the serrated cutter 10 to define a first transfer nip, and a sealing roll spaced from the serrated cutter to define a second transfer nip. Thus, Takayanagi et al. also fail to teach or suggest a vacuum transfer cylinder having a diameter greater than the distance between the first cutting roll and the sealing roll as recited in claims 1 and 11.

Since Rajala and Takayanagi et al. both fail to show or suggest a vacuum transfer cylinder having a diameter greater than the distance between the first cutting roll and the sealing roll (along the plane formed by the rotation axes thereof), a combination of these references would similarly fail to show or

suggest such a feature. As a result, claims 1 and 11 are submitted to be nonobvious and patentable over the references of record including Rajala in combination with Takayanagi et al. Because the final Office action does not set forth the Office's position with respect to this element, Applicants request an interview to discuss the above argument.

In addition, Applicants also wish to discuss the other arguments presented in Amendment A.

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on _____.

NOTE:

This form should be completed by applicant and submitted to the examiner in advance of the interview (see MPEP § 713.01).

This application will not be delayed from issue because of applicant's failure to submit a written record of this interview. Therefore, applicant is advised to file a statement of the substance of this interview (37 CFR 1.133(b)) as soon as possible.


(Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature)

(Examiner/SPE Signature)

U.S. Patent

Mar. 4, 2003

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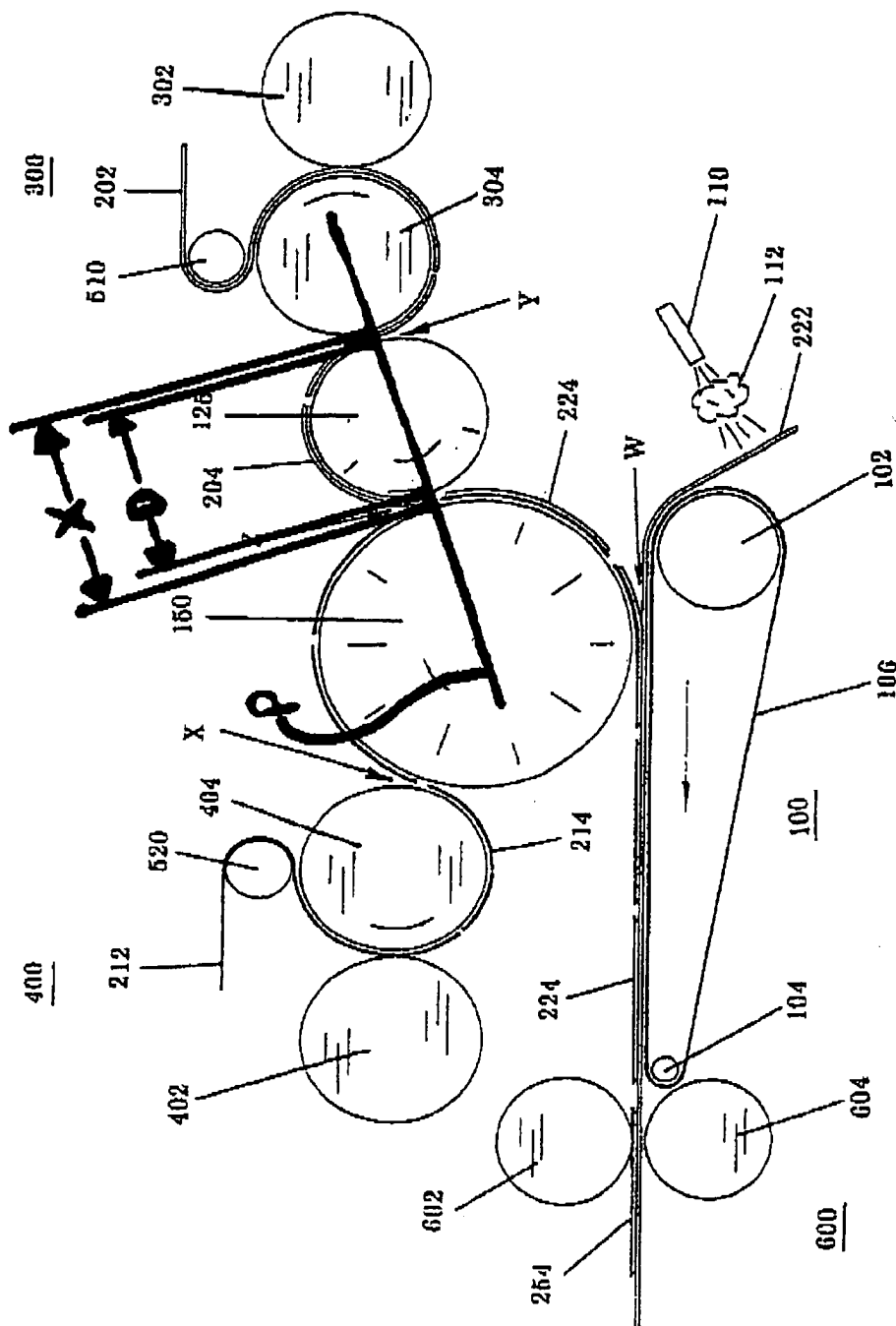
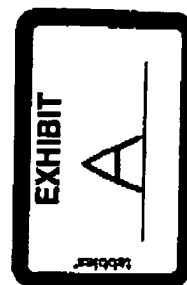


Figure 4